Independent Project Review (Introduction) Nathan Branine

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The independent project that I chose for my presentation represents not only a favorite pastime, but also fond memories from my childhood. I would spend many summer days playing lawn croquet at my Grandma’s house when I was younger. My enjoyment of the game manifested in demonstrating and playing lawn croquet with middle and high school physical education classes. I continue to play croquet on a semi-regular basis at friend’s houses in Philadelphia.

The sport of croquet relates to real life experiences by allowing groups to interact in a low-pace, casual basis while enjoying camaraderie and inciting competition. In an urban context, croquet would be an unfamiliar sport so new concepts would be instilled as students interacted with the sport. The sport also makes others familiar with English cultural and leisure activities.

Teaching croquet incorporates a variety of methodological and technological instruction. Direct instruction is used when describing the sport with visuals intermixed. Visuals such as actual demonstrations, videos on competitions, and student-led demonstrations help in varying the teaching style. By dividing students into small groups to work on technique, they are forced to interact, work together, and strategize to achieve a goal. Students utilize hands-on interaction when they engage in the actual croquet match.

In the actual presentation, I believe that in the 20 minutes I rushed the initial description of the material to include the activity. I was surprised to find that only 5-6 of the classmates had previously played croquet, and I enjoyed their interaction and reaction to the sport. I miscounted and had to get an extra handout from my bag, but in retrospect this miscounting took only an extra 10 seconds. The use of classmates to hold wickets was not ideal, and next time I would have holders or only use 4-5 wickets total so more classmates could participate in actual game play.

In conclusion, I learned a lot about a game that I enjoyed on a casual basis. I learned my time management skills need work, and I often analyze and over think my information to the point of obsession. I tend to be descriptive in the way that I communicate an activity, and I truly desire for all of my students to have an appropriate comprehension of the material.